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The following paper was presented for publication :
 "A new classification of the North American Falconidæ, with descriptions of three new species." By Robert Ridgway.

PROF. LEIDY directed attention to a preparation of the trunk of an adult male subject, from the dissecting room of the University, in which all the viscera were reversed in the order of their usual position. The heart is reversed in position with its apex directed to the right. The aorta descends on the right side; and the cavæ are placed on the left of the vertebral column. The liver is placed in the left, the spleen in the right side. The stomach is reversed, and the large intestine commencing in the left iliac region terminates in the rectum from the right side.

THEO. D. RAND called the attention of the Academy to a remarkable exposure of rock on the North Pennsylvania Railroad, between Abingdon and Edge Hill stations, about eleven miles from Philadelphia. The rock is Potsdam sandstone, highly micaceous, in strata nearly vertical, and divided by frequent joints. Its strike is about N. by E. At the point mentioned a quarry has been opened following the crest of the hill, the northern end of the quarry giving therefore a section. At the bottom of the excavation the layers seem undisturbed and perfectly vertical, but above they are thrown to the southwest and crushed and broken in a remarkable manner, the layers nearest the surface being horizontal or even dipping to the S. W., but still retaining their relative positions. The breaks in the rocks are fresh and sharp, and the spaces between them empty, and the whole appearance is as if a very recent force acting near the surface had thrown them from a vertical into their present positions. Some of these spaces were two or three inches in width and apparently of great depth.

It is probable, however, that it is due to a folding of the strata, as in the cut of the Railroad immediately west of this exposure. The rocks of the quarry appear perfectly vertical while south of them, probably fifty feet, is a well defined anticlinal axis or fold. Still the broken, not bent condition of the rocks, their very marked and sudden change from the vertical, the freshness and sharpness of the fractures seem almost irreconcilable with a fold taking place as long ago as this anticlinal axis, and it is well worthy of examination by geologists.

December 27th.

The President, DR. RUSCHENBERGER, in the Chair.

Thirty-four members present.

On motion, the election of members was postponed until the next meeting for business.

PROF. LEEDS called attention to an interesting geological phenomenon in the vicinity of Wayne station on the Germantown Railroad, about three miles from Philadelphia. At the point where Wayne street cuts through a fold in the micaceous schists of this district, there occur huge imbedded boulders of very hard compact hornblende rock. The matrix of mica schist has the appearance of an altered argillaceous slate, and rapidly decays on exposure. The hornblende rocks are thus left protruding above the soil, and would be difficult to account for if attention had not previously been called to them in place. As occurring in the schist, they are rounded upon their corners and edges and smooth upon the sides. It does not appear an improbable conjecture to suppose that they constituted a part of a primitive surface formation—perhaps the original earth crust—which was broken up before the de-

[Dec.

position of the metamorphic rocks which make up the azoic rocks of undetermined geological age, overlying the southeastern angle of Pennsylvania. And that by stream and current actions, perhaps in part by glacial, they were brought into the shape of boulders at a time anterior to the deposition of the sedimentary mica schists.

And it is a fact of interest in this connection that the highly garnetiferous mica schists of this district, are charged with dodecahedral garnets, which probably have belonged to pre-existent rocks, inasmuch as their angles and edges are rounded off, and the crystals reduced to an almost globular form. This is true of the garnets while still firmly imbedded in the mica schists, and applies to the garnetiferous mica schists extending over a wide area.

On favorable report of the Committees, the following papers were ordered to be printed.

Remarks on Dr. Asa Gray's notes on Buckley's new Plants of Texas.

BY PROF. S. B. BUCKLEY.

In the spring of 1862 Dr. Asa Gray had two papers in the Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, both of which were reviews of some new plants described by me in the same publication a few months previous. I left Philadelphia prior to the appearance of Dr. Gray's papers, being employed by the Sanitary Commission at Washington to make scientific examinations and measurements of Soldiers for anthropological purposes.—*See Anthropological Investigations of American Soldiers, by Dr. Gould*, lately published by the Sanitary Commission. At the end of the war I returned to Texas, where I have been ever since. I did not see Dr. Gray's notes till August, 1867. I have few Botanical works here, and no Herbarium, and have delayed to notice some points in which I think Dr. Gray has not done me justice, in hopes to be able to have a better chance than I have here, but as time is passing I will offer what facts I have now, leaving others for another opportunity.

During 1859, '60 and '61, I made a large collection of rare plants, in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas, which I had boxed and started with for the North prior to the war. These were stopped and destroyed at Lavaca, Texas. They were intended for, and directed to, the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

The few I saved I brought with me, but I found the Herbarium of the Academy not as complete as I supposed. I expected to find all the plants which Nuttall had described, as well as full collections of Wright and other botanists who had explored Texas and other southwestern parts of our country. But these were not as full as I imagined, and the Library was deficient in some works which would have aided me in my investigations. I appreciate these facts more fully now, than I did then, and can understand how very likely it is that I have made some mistakes. There are very few botanists who have not had to regret similar errors under similar circumstances. Indeed the object of this paper is to show that Dr. Gray himself has fallen into error in many particulars in the papers in which he criticises mine. For instance, *Clematis Texensis*, Buckley, Dr. Gray says is his "*C. viorna* var. *coccinea*, Pl. Wr. 2 p. 7, *C. coccinea*, Engelman." It is referred to *C. viorna* with the remark that its "leaves are more glaucous, and the thick sepals of a pure carmine red, very rarely purplish." I do not know that Engelman has ever published his name of *C. coccinea*. I believe all that has been published is in the extract quoted. If, therefore, it is, as I have no doubt the majority of botanists will agree with me that it is, a distinct species from *C. viorna*, my name has the right by priority of publication. It grows in the vicinity of Austin.

1870.]